

**TANF SERVICES FUNDED IN WISCONSIN**

**EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS  
(CHILDREN FIRST)**

Program Description:

Children First promotes the emotional and financial responsibility of the noncustodial parent (NCP) to his or her children. The program operates through a voluntary partnership with the W-2 agency, the child support agency, and the county/tribal judicial system. The Children First Program requires a court order mandating NCP participation in the program. The NCP may be ordered to participate in Children First if he/she has no current means of meeting a child support obligation, is behind in child support payments, and does not work full-time. The Children First program operates concurrently with the W-2 program. The program provides, at a minimum, job search assistance, work experience, education and training opportunities, and case management services designed to assist eligible NCPs in obtaining and retaining employment. Maintenance of Effort (MOE) funds are allocated to support Children First.

Enhanced models supported through private funding offer child development, mediation and services designed to encourage "Team Parenting," whether or not the parents are married.

Client Group Served:

Unemployed or low-income Non-custodial parents who are in arrears on their child support payments and for whom a court exists requiring their participation in the program. An NCP successfully completes the Children First Program when he/she pays his/her child support payment for 3 consecutive months or completes 16 weeks of employment and training activities.

Critical Indicators:

Currently there are 43 programs operating in Wisconsin that serve almost 4,000 NCPs annually.

**TOTAL TANF FUNDING: \$1,100,000**